

CLAIMS

5

1. A data network related information-carrying and information-transferring arrangement, comprising a central unit (10) and a number of slave units (11, 15) that can co-act with a central unit (10) via information transmission, wherein an information transfer mode or session, initialised by the central unit in respect of one or more of said slave units, can be preceded by an authenticating handshake procedure established there between, wherein an information transfer mode or session initialised by a chosen slave unit (11) in respect of said central unit (10) shall be preceded by an authenticating handshake procedure established there between, where after an electronic document ("D") can be sent from a chosen slave unit (11) to the central unit (10), **characterised** in that the electronic document (D) applicable to a multilateral agreement and provided with protected text (d1) and bearing at least one signature (d2) of a number of requisite signatures in respect of a first party (A) can be sent to the central unit (10), wherein the central unit is adapted to automatically check the document (D) in respect of chosen features; wherein said check comprises at least a check to ascertain that the text of the document is protected, a check to ascertain that the electronic signature (signatures) accompanying the document consist of one or more requisite electronic signatures related to one party (A), and a check to ascertain which other electronic signatures are required with respect to a second party (B) in order for the agreement to be valid; in that said central unit (10) is adapted to send said document (D) bearing said electronic signature automatically to each of the remaining entities required to sign the agreement text in order for the agreement to be binding; in that each of said entities signs the document electronically and returns said document (D', D") to the central unit, which checks that the text of the document is protected and that the accompanying signatures have been made by authorised persons from both or all parties (A and B); and in that, when the text has been signed by all authorised entities, the central unit (10) automatically activates means (24) for initiating conditions set and chosen in the text.

2. An arrangement according to Claim 1, **characterised** in that the document contains or has added thereto information relating to the person or persons that has/have been given the necessary authority by participating parties to endorse and electronically sign said document, and a requisite sequential order.

5

3. An arrangement according to Claim 1 or 2, **characterised** in that said document contains one or more instructions and/or one or more agreements.

10

4. An arrangement according to Claim 1, **characterised** in that the central unit includes first means, for establishing and/or checking whether or not the authority-related information from both or all parties (A and B) is correct, with the aid of a register accessible to the central unit, wherein, if the authority-related information is correct, the central unit (10) uses second means, that can be activated to enable the central unit to carry out the measures given in the incoming document, in accordance with the instructions or agreements given in said document.

15

5. An arrangement according to Claim 1, **characterised** in that the document has added thereto information relating to those persons that have the necessary authority to sign the document on behalf of a party, and the electronic address of said persons.

20

6. An arrangement according to Claim 1, **characterised** in that said instructions, related to an economic transaction, is sent to the central unit, a banking institution or the like.

25

7. An arrangement according to Claim 1, **characterised** in that in that the instructions, sent to the central unit, are related to an agreement between two or more slave units of respective parties.

30

8. An arrangement according to Claim 7, **characterised** in that the central unit includes or co-acts with third means, functioning to allow said document and/or said instructions or agreements to be copied and sent to each person or entity that shall sign the document with its instructions or agreements electronically in his/her capacity of an authorised person.

9. An arrangement according to Claim 8, **characterised** in that when each person sends his/her copy of the document, bearing instructions or agreements and duly signed electronically by said person in his/her capacity of a person authorised in respect of a first party (A), the central unit is allowed to send a copy of the thus signed document bearing said instructions or agreements to each authorised person of a second party for signing of the document bearing said instructions or agreements electronically.
10. An arrangement according to Claim 1, **characterised** in that the central unit includes or co-acts with fourth means, for carrying out requisite authority checks in an archive or the like, in which relevant powers of attorney for participating parties are stored.
11. An arrangement according to Claim 10, **characterised** in that said archive includes a number of organisation identities, such as organisation numbers, current e-mail addresses, company seats, certificates relating to private keys of party-associated persons.
12. An arrangement according to Claim 1, **characterised** in that the central unit co-acts with or includes fifth means, for the registration of powers of attorney relating to party-associated persons, wherein the arrangement includes the possibility of altering information stored in said register, such as the duration of an appointment, the activation of a blocking function, and/or the insertion of new information.
13. An arrangement according to Claim 12, **characterised** in that said register includes a number of authority codes.
14. An arrangement according to Claim 13, **characterised** in that said authority codes are structured to enable the determination of conditions that are tied to a chosen instruction or to a chosen agreement.

15. An arrangement according to Claim 13, **characterised** in that a first authority code denotes that the authority required exists in a signature from each member of the Board; in that a second authority code denotes that the authority required resides in the joint signing of two or more given persons; in that a third authority code denotes that the authority required resides solely in the signature of the Managing Director (routine business matters); in that a fourth authority code denotes that the authority required resides in a message sent to a board member, such as the Chairman of the Board; and in that a fifth authority code denotes that the authority required is a so-called financial power of attorney.